

Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned
Amdt. dated February 10, 2006
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A composite multilayer material, in particular for plain bearings or bushings, having a backing layer, a bearing metal layer (3) of a copper alloy or an aluminum alloy, a nickel intermediate layer (2) and an overlay (1), **wherein** the overlay (1) consists of comprises about approx. 0 - 20 wt.% copper and/or silver, the rest being bismuth, and the layer thickness of the nickel layer amounts to more than 4 μm .
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the overlay (1) comprises at least approx. 0.5 wt.% copper and/or silver.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, **wherein** the overlay comprises about (1) consists of approx. 2 - 8 wt.% copper and/or silver, the rest being bismuth.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[to 3]], **wherein** the layer thickness of the overlay is about (1) amounts to approx. 5 - 25 μm .
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 4, **wherein** the layer thickness of the overlay is about (1) amounts to approx. 6 - 14 μm .
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 5, **wherein** the layer thickness of the nickel layer is about (2) amounts to approx. 4 - 6 μm .

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7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 6, **wherein** the bearing metal layer comprises (3) ~~consists of~~ a copper-aluminum, copper-tin, copper-tin-lead, copper-zinc, copper-zinc-silicon, copper-zinc-aluminum, aluminum-zinc or copper-aluminum-iron alloy.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite multilayer material as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 7, which has undergone an aging process and comprises an interdiffusion layer of substantially bismuth and nickel between the nickel intermediate layer and the overlay.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for the production of the composite multilayer materials as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 8 by electrodeposition, in which the overlay is deposited from an aqueous-based electrolyte system comprising of the following composition:

<u>20-100 g/l</u> bismuth methanesulfonate,	<u>20-100 g/l</u>
<u>0.1- 30 g/l</u> and/or copper methanesulfonate,	<u>0.1- 30 g/l</u> and/or
<u>0.1 - 2 g/l</u> silver methanesulfonate,	<u>0.1 - 2 g/l</u>
<u>80 - 250 g/l</u> methanesulfonic acid,	<u>80 - 250 g/l</u>
<u>20 - 100 g/l</u> nonionic wetting agent,	<u>20 - 100 g/l</u>
<u>5 - 40 g/l</u> grain refining agent,	<u>5 - 40 g/l</u>
<u>1 - 4 g/l</u> resorcinol, and	<u>1 - 4 g/l</u>
if silver methanesulfonate is added, then also	
<u>30 - 150 g/l</u> thiourea,	<u>30 - 150 g/l</u>

10. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 9, **wherein** the grain refining agent is based on an acrylic acid derivative and alkylaryl polyglycol ether.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, **wherein** the nonionic wetting agent is based on aryl polyglycol ether and/or alkylaryl polyglycol ether.

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12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of pProduction of plain bearings or bushings having the following steps:

applying application of a copper alloy or an aluminum alloy onto a backing layer as bearing metal layer;

subdividing subdivision and shaping of the composite multilayer material;

applying application of a nickel intermediate layer onto the bearing metal layer;

and

electrodeposit[[ion of]]ing an overlay onto the nickel intermediate layer in accordance with the method as claimed in claims 9 to 11;

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Production as claimed in claim 12 further including heat treating, wherein the plain bearings or bushings are heat-treated for two or more hours ~~to a few days~~.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Production as claimed in claim 13 further including maintaining, wherein the temperature during heat treatment between amounts to 150 - 170°C.

Claims 15 and 16 (CANCELLED)